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THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM APPLAUDS INCREASED INTEREST IN SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERING

SACRAMENTO—The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV), California's arm of the national AmeriCorps program, applauds the increased interest in service and volunteering since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

"People are looking for ways to serve our nation in their own communities" said Chuck J. Supple, Executive Director for GO SERV.

GO SERV's parent organization, the Corporation for National Service, indicated a 30% spike in interest in AmeriCorps across the nation after September 11th. "There is a growing desire to express values such as service to others that we all share as Americans, whether it's as informal as driving a neighbor to a doctor's appointment or as formal as a year of service with AmeriCorps" said Mr. Supple.

A number of AmeriCorps members in California work for the National Rapid Response Corps, a team of specialists who respond to any immediate disaster or emergency. To ensure that all AmeriCorps members are fully prepared to provide assistance in the event of any future disasters or emergencies, GO SERV is surveying its programs to assess their disaster preparedness and other emergency capabilities, such as language proficiency, and CPR training.

"Our mission is simple—to bring people together to get things done. We want to be sure that if the need should arise again, GO SERV is there—ready, able and willing to help in whatever capacity," said the Executive Director.

With one of the largest service commissions in the nation, GO SERV is disseminating over \$33 million this year alone to support more than 7,000 AmeriCorps members working in a variety of community service projects throughout the state.

States established service commissions in 1993 as a result of the National and Community Service Trust Act, which gave states federal funding to support service opportunities through AmeriCorps, known by many as the domestic Peace Corps. Since its inception, California's AmeriCorps commission has created more than 27,000 volunteer opportunities and has disseminated over \$161 million in AmeriCorps funding.

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